

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 14874 251017Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05 PA-01
/134 W

-----111545 251809Z /46

R 250901Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5043

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, TH

SUBJ: NATURAL GAS NEGOTIATIONS

REF BANGKOK 13517,

1. CABINET ON MAY 18 APPOINTED SELECT COMMITTEE, HEADED BY
DEFMIN LEK NAEOMALI, TO TAKE OVER NATURAL GAS PRICE AND
CONCESSION RENEWAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNION OIL. COMMITTEE
MEMBERS INCLUDE FINMIN SUPHAT SUTTHATHAM AND FOUR MEMBERS OF
PREVIOUS GAS PRICING SUB-COMMITTEE. INDUSTRY MIN KASEM IS AN
"ADVISOR" TO THE COMMITTEE.

2. AT END OF FIFTH SESSION OF TALKS WITH NEW COMMITTEE ON
MORNING 25 MAY, UNION'S BANGKOK VP BILL GREENWALT SAID HE IS
GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY GEN LEK'S GRASP OF CONCEPTS AND DETAILS
AND CONSIDERS THAT "NEW MOMENTUM" HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE
TALKS. GREENWALT, TACITURN AND UNCOMMUNICATIVE BY NATURE,
DECLINED TO DISCUSS DETAILS, BUT SAID THAT WITH REGARD TO PRICE
GAP NEW COMMITTEE "HAS MADE SOME SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENTS IN
LINE WITH REALITY." THIS PRESUMABLY MEANS THAT RTG HAS OFFERED
TO PAY A HIGHER PRICE FOR GAS THAN WAS PREVIOUSLY OFFERED.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 14874 251017Z

3. GREENWALT SAID GEN LEK HAS TWICE MENTIONED PM'S EXPRESSED
DESIRE (ALSO CITED FREQUENTLY IN PRESS) THAT AGREEMENT BE
REACHED ON GAS PRICE BY END OF THIS MONTH. HE ADDED, HOWEVER,
THAT GEN LEK APPEARS TO CONSTRUE "END OF MONTH" TO MEAN
"SOON" RATHER THAN ACTUAL DEADLINE DATE.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATURAL GAS, AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO14874
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780221-0567
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780521/aaaaarjk.tel
Line Count: 62
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b0fc4497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BANGKOK 13517
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2578409
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATURAL GAS NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: ENRG, TH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b0fc4497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014